

Elfine's socks

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Leaf-lace socks, grown from the toe-up, the season's 'must have' hosiery for style-conscious dryads.

Skills

magic loop technique for knitting in the round, short row heels, lace

Materials

100g (approx 320m) 4-ply (fingering) weight sock yarn. Socks shown are Shelridge Farm Soft Touch Ultra, handpainted

2.25mm (US 1) circular needle 60 cm (24 inches) long

Tapestry needle for finishing

Size

Women's medium

Gauge

33 sts and 46 rows to 10 cm (4 inches) over stocking (stockinette) stitch (st st) using 2.25mm (US 1) needles.

Stitch instructions

St st: Stocking (stockinette) stitch

k2tog: knit two stitches together

ssk: slip next two stitches as if to knit, return both to left needle, knit together (or use your preferred left-leaning decrease)

m1: make one stitch by picking up and knitting into bar between two sts

p2tog: purl two stitches together

tbl: through the back loop

sk2p: slip next stitch, k2tog, pass slipped stitch over

yo: yarn over needle to make new stitch

wrap: (RS) with yarn at back of work, slip stitch purlwise. Bring yarn to front of work around back of slipped stitch. Pass slipped stitch back to left needle. Turn work, bring yarn to front to complete

wrap. (WS) with yarn at front of work, slip stitch purlwise. Bring yarn to back of work around front of slipped stitch. Pass slipped stitch back to left needle. Turn work, bring yarn to back to complete wrap.

Instructions

Toe

Cast on 24 stitches using figure 8 cast-on or your preferred method. Arrange stitches so you have 12 on each needle of a magic loop. Half will be the instep and the other half will be the sole.

Round 1: K1, m1, K10, m1, K1. Rpt on second needle.

Cont increasing as set (1 st from each end) every round until you have 24sts on each needle.

Next round: K all sts.

Rpt round 1 next and each foll alt round until you have 32 sts on each needle (64 sts total).

Foot

First round: K1, m1, K to end of first needle (33 sts). These stitches will form the instep. K all sts on second needle (32 sts). These will form the sole.

The next 16 rows form the leaf lace pattern for the instep. K sole sts on every round.

(NB: instructions between ** below indicate pattern repeats for leg.)

Round 1: ** P1, (K3, k2tog, yo, K1, yo, ssk, K2) 3 times, K1** P1.

Round 2 and every alt row: **P1, K31** P1.

Round 3: ** P1, (K2, k2tog, K1, yo, K1, yo, K1, ssk, K1) 3 times, K1** P1.

Round 5: ** P1, (K1, k2tog, K2, yo, K1, yo, K2, ssk) 3 times, K1** P1.

Round 7: ** P1, k2tog, (K3, yo, K1, yo, K3, sk2p) twice, K3, yo, K1, yo, K3, ssk** P1.

Round 9: ** P1, (K1, yo, ssk, K5, k2tog, yo) 3 times, K1** P1.

Round 11: ** P1, (K1, yo, K1, ssk, K3, k2tog, K1, yo) 3 times, K1** P1.

Round 13: ** P1, (K1, yo, K2, ssk, K1, k2tog, K2, yo) 3 times, K1** P1.

Round 15: ** P1, (K1, yo, K3, sk2p, K3, yo) 3 times, K1** P1.

Rpt rounds 1-16 until foot measures approx 20 cm (8 inches), or length of foot from toe to heel less 4 cm (1.5 inches), ending with round 7 or 15 (make a note).

Heel

The heel is worked back and forth on sole stitches only. There will always be 32 sts: stitch count does not change.

Heel decreases: Row 1: (RS) K31, wrap next st.

Row 2: (WS) P30, wrap next st.

Row 3: K29, wrap next st.

Row 4: P28, wrap next st.

Continue wrapping as set until there are sixteen wrapped stitches and sixteen live stitches (the row where you P16 is where you stop).

Heel increases: Row 1: K16, knit the next stitch together with its wrap through the back loop, rewrap next st.

Row 2: P17, purl the next stitch together with its wrap through the back loop, rewrap next st. (You are reactivating one st per row and rewrapping the following st.)

Row 3: K18, knit the next stitch together with its wrap tbl, rewrap next st.

Row 4: P19, purl the next stitch together with its wrap tbl, rewrap next st.

Continue reactivating sts as set until you have 32 live sts, ending with a WS row.

Leg

First round: First needle (back leg), P1, K31. Second needle (front leg), P1, K30, K2tog. 32 sts on each needle (64 sts).

Starting with Round 1 or Round 9 of stitch pattern (depending where you left off for foot shaping), work instructions as given for foot between ** on both needles.

Work in pattern until leg measures 18 cm (7 inches), or length desired, from end of heel shaping, ending with row 7 or 15.

Garter cuff: Row 1, K all sts.

Row 2: P all sts.

Rpt rows 1 and 2 once more. Cast off extremely loosely (I used a 4mm (US 6) needle).

